(c) In the last two meetings, the criteria for considering formulations as irrational harmful were evaluated and suggestions received from various sources were examined. The details regarding various combinations permitted by the State Drug Controller Authorities are being collected. The sub-committee will have further meeting before it finalises its recommendations for consideration by Drugs Consultative Committee.

(d) There is no system at present of centralised registration in the country and the State Drug Controllers are the licensing authorities for manufacture and sale of drugs. However, both at the Central and State levels, hospitals maintain list of drugs which are considered essential for hispital purchases. Similarly, at various levels of health care like Primary Health Centres, sub-centres, etc. there are restricted list of drugs to cater to the drug needs.

Combination of drugs

2968. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 914 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every week a new combination of one or more drugs is being introduced in the country;

(b) what is the number of combination of drugs being marketed in the country at present;

(c) what are the main ingredients alongwith strength in each combination;

(d) how many of these combination of drugs have been cleared after clinical trials alongwith the details of each;

(e) whether it is a fact that drug companies are introducing these combinations for high profits despite the fact that single ingredient medicines are more effective, safer and cheaper; and

(f) what steps Government have taken in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Government is not aware that every week a new combination of one or more drugs is introduced in the country.

(b) and (c) State Drug Controllers are the licensing authorities and there is no Central Registration of combinations. In view of this, it would not be possible to give the number of combinations marketed in the country.

(d) In view of above it is not possible to indicate how many of the combinations have been cleared by State Drug Controllers without clinical trials.

(e) It is not a fact that a single ingredient medicine is a substitute of a combination nor is it a fact that a single ingredient medicine is more effective and safer compared to a combination. When more than one medicine are required to be taken, the total cost of all these medicines are not always cheaper than when they are combined together and taken.

(f) Government have constituted a Committee of experts to go into the details of examining formulations moving in the market, including combination, from the angle of safety and rationality and to recommend weeding out of formulations considered harmful irrational.

Harmful effect of Phenlbutazone and Oxphenbutazone formulated drugs

2969. DR. H. P. SHARMA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELWAFRE be pleased to refer to the starred Question 129 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of other drugs are being marketed in the country for the same indication of phenylbutazone and oxyphenbutazone;